

## News Release

# February 2013 Brings Celebration of Black History and Culture at U of M, Crookston

*By Itolfele on Tuesday, January 22, 2013*A series of events in February 2013 will recognize Black History Month at the University of Minnesota, Crookston and the community and region are encouraged to attend these special events on campus. On Monday, February 4, is Multicultural Monday and features a panel discussion on "The Evolution of Africa" that will also include African food, the opportunity to wear authentic clothing, and a display of artifacts. The panel discussion will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Bede Ballroom in the Sargeant Student Center. Lunch may be purchased in Brown Dining Room for \$5.00 per person. All are welcome. On Friday, February 8, the theatrical performance, "Daughters of Africa" presented by the Mixed Blood Theatre Company. The performance, to be held at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium, is a commemoration of the triumph of pride, determination, and courage. Fueled by the songs of Lena Horne, Aretha Franklin, Queen Latifah, and many others, this exuberant, music-driven celebration of African American women's triumphs and accomplishments features a striking collection of profiles of the famous and the forgotten. The event is free and open to all. To learn more about Mixed Blood Theatre, visit <http://www.mixedblood.com>. Monday, February 25, Ron Spriggs will present the impressive history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Spriggs is an oral historian, lecturer and curator of Ron Spriggs Exhibit of Tuskegee Airmen (RSETA). He continues to bear the torch illuminating these "Gladiators of the Skies." He will be at the Crookston High School Auditorium at 9:30 a.m. and the Kiehle Auditorium at the U of M, Crookston at 7 p.m. There will be no admission charge. To learn more about RSETA, visit <http://www.rseta.org>. To conclude the month's activities, on Thursday, February 28, there will be a dinner theater featuring a "Celebration of Black History and Culture." The dinner theater will be held in Bede Ballroom at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should contact members of the Black Student Association or Lorna Hollowell, director of Diversity and Multicultural Services at [lhollowe@crk.umn.edu](mailto:lhollowe@crk.umn.edu) or 218-281-8580. The cost of the tickets is \$12.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students (with ID). To view all events taking place during Black History Month at the U of M, Crookston, visit [www.umcrookston.edu/today](http://www.umcrookston.edu/today).

Background  
This year marks two historic anniversaries, the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation (1863) and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington (1963). These two significant events influenced the theme for the month which is "The Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington." Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926. The commemoration originated with historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson. He established what is now known as the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he began an initiative for a special week to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. It became a month-long recognition in 1976. Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 27 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and 39 concentrations on campus--as well as 10 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

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2900 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716  
800-862-6466 | 218-281-6510 | [umcinfo@umn.edu](mailto:umcinfo@umn.edu)

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